

3590 if the additional surplus in the Social Security trust fund generated by this act would be expended on other provisions of this act and not reserved solely for Social Security, and the net savings generated by the CLASS program in the underlying substitute amendment and any subsequent substitute amendment are reserved solely for the CLASS program provisions of this act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, in the weeks this has been sequestered without us being able to review it and now having something that is not understandable in the short period of time we have to do it here, I have to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am sorry my friend objected. It is not too difficult to comprehend that any Social Security surpluses should be reserved for Social Security. It is not too difficult to comprehend that all monies related to the CLASS Act would be reserved for paying benefits for that. So I am disappointed that my friends on the other side of the aisle are not interested in making sure Social Security monies are not used and/or CLASS Act monies are not used for anything other than those two programs.

Mr. President, I have another unanimous consent request.

The process for developing this legislation has been very transparent. In fact, the hearings held in the Finance Committee were done very publicly, and that is an understatement. For weeks and weeks, members of that committee couldn't walk out of the room without being questioned by the press. The press was present at most of their meetings. So both the HELP and Finance Committees marked up their legislation in public markups. Republican and Democratic members of both committees offered numerous amendments, all of which were available to the public. Republican and Democratic members voted for or against those amendments in a public and transparent way, and each committee member can be held fully accountable to their constituents for all of those votes.

The merged bill before us is entirely consistent with the provisions produced in those public markups. The bill has been fully available on the Internet for about 2 weeks. So each and every American has had the opportunity, if they wanted, to read the text of the legislation and to communicate their views with their Senators.

One of the main reasons we have gone the extra mile in ensuring a fully transparent process is because of the leadership of Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN of Arkansas. From the very start of this debate, she has made clear to me that a transparent process and debate on this critical issue is a top priority of hers. To that end, Senator LINCOLN said she would not allow a vote on the

motion to proceed to this bill unless it had been available to the public for a reasonable period of time. She was joined by virtually everyone on this side of the aisle to that effect. They were right. The people did deserve a chance to see the bill before that vote, so we were sure to give them that chance. The Senator deserves credit for that, and I appreciate her standing up on that issue.

She believes—and I agree—that we can do more on the transparency front as this bill moves forward to the next stage of this process; therefore, Senator LINCOLN has asked me to propound on her behalf a unanimous consent request.

I ask unanimous consent that no amendment be in order to the Reid substitute amendment No. 2786, a subsequent substitute amendment, or H.R. 3590 unless the text or Internet link to the text of the amendment is posted on the home page of the official Senate Web site of the Member of the Senate who is sponsoring the amendment prior to the amendment being called up for consideration by the Senate and the amendment is filed at the desk. Further, that this unanimous consent agreement shall be in effect for the duration of the consideration of H.R. 3590.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, in light of some of the trust problems and transparency problems we have, and while it appears to lead to greater transparency, we can also see ways that this can limit the ability for the minority to offer amendments. Therefore, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is not a good way to start this debate. No. 1, there is an objection to the moneys in Social Security being protected and, No. 2, to the moneys in the CLASS Act being protected. That was also objected to.

Finally, Senator LINCOLN's request, which I support 100 percent, indicating that amendments should be filed on a Member's Web site—that doesn't sound too outlandish—and filed at the desk before they are offered, sounds pretty fair and square to me. I am disappointed this is the way the debate started.

Mr. President, there is an order before the body that there will be two amendments in order today. One will be offered by the Democrats and one will be offered by the Republicans. The one to be offered by the Democrats will be offered by the distinguished Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, who I had the good fortune of serving with in the House of Representatives. She and I came here together in 1986 when we were elected to the Senate. She is a Senator I have such great respect and fondness for. We have been literally together and, because of our seniority, I am always one step behind her. Frankly, most people are a step

behind the Senator from Maryland. The amendment she is going to offer is very sound and good. She will explain it in detail. It expands women's health services. We had a consternation about mammograms a couple weeks ago, and this will put that all to rest.

I express my deep appreciation for the leadership of the Senator from Maryland on this issue and on so many other issues she is involved in.

As I have indicated, the managers of the bill on our side will be Senators BAUCUS and DODD. We look forward to a rigorous debate. With the consent of my friend from Wyoming, I ask that the Senator from Maryland be recognized.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I was hoping I would have a chance to comment on the things I had to object to so I can give a more full explanation. I am happy to wait.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is no need to cut the Senator off. I have indicated to my staff earlier today that there is no one easier to get along with in the Senate than the Senator from Wyoming. I would never, ever cut him off intentionally. If there is anything he wishes to say, he should say it. If the Senator from Maryland will withhold for a moment, the Senator from Wyoming wishes to speak for a brief period of time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I cannot be brief on what just happened here. I will let the Senator go ahead. Frankly, I am a little upset about what has happened—combining a couple of unanimous consent agreements so that part of it would be acceptable and part would not be, leaving out the most important one, which is that we wouldn't take Medicare money from Medicare, and then not having much time to consider, or to rewrite, or to do anything with those. I have a lot of comments I wish to make on that, plus a general statement on the bill, which fits in with what just happened. I will defer to the Senator from Maryland.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 2791 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2786

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), for herself, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. FRANKEN, proposes an amendment numbered 2791 to amendment No. 2786.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows: